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## United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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83-1599

May 11, 1983

Executive Registry

83-2579

Mr. John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director of Central  
Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear ~~Mr. McMahon~~:

Senator Inouye has proposed that the Select Committee on Intelligence conduct hearings on United States intelligence collection and support activities in Central America. These hearings would include an overall assessment by the intelligence community on the political and military situation in the region. We agree that it would be valuable for the Select Committee to hear testimony on these matters.

Our government's intelligence collection and support activities represent an important involvement in, and commitment to, the countries of Central America. These activities should be carefully considered by members of the Committee. An overall presentation of current intelligence and intelligence analysis would also enable our members to assess conditions in Central America better, as well as to evaluate the quality of intelligence products on the region.

We request your participation, therefore, at a hearing of the Committee to be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 25, 1983, in Room S-407 of the Capitol. The plan of the hearing is detailed in the attachment. You should be prepared, in coordination with the other witnesses, to address issues in the hearing plan which are related to the responsibilities of your organization.

Mr. John N. McMahon  
Page Two  
May 11, 1983

We look forward to hearing from you on these important and timely matters. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us or have your staff contact Dan Finn (224-1759) of the Committee staff.

Sincerely,



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Barry Goldwater  
Chairman



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Daniel P. Moynihan  
Vice Chairman

Attachment

PLAN FOR A HEARING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
ON  
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES  
IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Information on political and military developments in the countries of Central America is available in a variety of reports produced by the intelligence community. Similarly, the extent of U.S. intelligence collection and support activities in the region can be determined from detailed analysis of budgetary submissions and other planning documents furnished to the Select Committee on Intelligence. The Committee has not recently, however, received from the intelligence community an integrated assessment of the political/military situation in the region nor a composite description of related U.S. intelligence collection and support activities.

A general assessment of military and political developments in Central America, based on available intelligence, is important to the formulation of U.S. policy toward the region. An overall description of U.S. intelligence collection and support activities would help the Committee, and the Senate, to evaluate the appropriateness of the level and scope of such activities. It would also allow members to judge whether these activities tend to implicate American officials or forces too closely with military developments in the region, possibly leading the United States into

-2-

further security commitments there. These needs are distinct from the submission to the Congress of necessary information on any covert action plans by the Administration, when these are undertaken to supplement other intelligence activities and implement U.S. foreign policy objectives.

As the situation in Central America continues to evolve, the Congress should have before it a clear view of the internal and external security situation of the nations of the region, and the level and type of U.S. intelligence collection and support activities focused on regional problems. In order to meet these requirements, the Committee would like to receive testimony on the following subjects from officials of the intelligence community:

I. Intelligence Assessment of the Political/Military Situation in Central America

A. Military Prospects in El Salvador

1. Number of active guerrillas;
2. Extent of the mass base of insurgent organizations;
3. Effectiveness and resiliency of insurgent political organization;
4. Stability of the Salvadoran government and its effect on the government's ability to resist the insurgency.

B. Arms Sources and Supply Arrangements for the Salvadoran Insurgents

1. Supply routes and methods for insurgent arms;
2. Sources of insurgent arms, especially U.S.S.R. and Cuban connection;
3. Magnitude of arms supply and effectiveness of regional efforts to interdict it.

-3-

- C. Prospects for Military Conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua
  - 1. Current relative military potential of Honduras and Nicaragua;
  - 2. Deployments along the Honduran/Nicaraguan border;
  - 3. Political probability of military clash and factors that would tend to make it more likely or avoid it.
- D. Effect of continued conflict in the region on political stability and military security in Costa Rica
- E. Summary of the political and military situation in Guatemala, with special reference to the prospects for a return to democratic government and improve- STAT ment of the human rights situation.

PROPOSED WITNESSES AND ORDER OF APPEARANCE

(1) Deputy Director of Central Intelligence:

Summary of U.S. intelligence on situation in Central America and the intelligence community's response to developments in the region.

-4-

(2) National Intelligence Officer, Latin America:

Integrated intelligence assessment of the political/military situation in Central America.



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